

Modular Weapon System



Description

The Modular Weapon System (MWS) consists of an M16A4 rifle and an M4 carbine version, which are modified M16A2 service rifles. An M1913 Rail Adapter System (RAS) replaces the upper hand guards and incorporates a removable rear-carrying handle. The rail adapter system and modified hand guards allow for the mounting of various accessories, such as a modified M203 launching system, high intensity flashlights, and infrared (IR) laser target designators, as well as optics. The MWS M4 carbine variant will be selectively fielded to Marines requiring shorter carbine versions of the MWS.

Operational Impact

Use of the MWS will result in a significant improvement in the ability to mount various accessories and will improve the accuracy, target detection, day and night engagement capabilities, and the maintainability of the M16 family of rifles.

Program Status

Fielding of the MWS began in FY 2003 and continues through FY 2007, for a total of 59,479 M16A4 and 10,407 M4 weapons.

Procurement Profile:	FY 05	FY 06
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Quantity:	9,050	13,384
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Developer/Manufacturer

Colt Manufacturing Company, Inc.,
Hartford, CT
Fabrique National Military Industries,
Columbia, SC